

Historic Warmth Ends 2021, Begins in 2022 in Texas

By Don Sutherland

Texas experienced some of the most extreme warmth ever seen in December. Numerous cities including Dallas-Fort Worth, Galveston, and Houston shattered records for the warmest December on record. New Year's Day began with record heat that saw Galveston and Houston set new monthly high temperature marks. At Falcon Creek, TX, the mercury soared to a national January record high of 99°.

Galveston and Houston provide good illustrations of the exceptional warmth that had prevailed.

Galveston:

December 2021 Summary
Mean Temperature: 69.9° (old record: 66.4°, 1889)
Average Minimum Temperature: 64.3° (old record: 62.7°, 1889)
Average Maximum Temperature: 77.0° (old record: 70.7°, 1933)
Number of 80° Days: 9 (old record: 1, 1918, 2007, 2016, 2018)

Record Temperatures	
Record High Maximum Temperatures	Record High Minimum Temperatures
December 4: 80° (old record: 79°, 1998, 2012)	December 9: 70° (old record: 69°, 2019)
December 5: 78° (tied record set in 1998)	December 10: 73° (old record: 68°, 1983, 2007)
December 6: 81° (old record: 79°, 1998, 2019)	December 14: 71° (old record: 69°, 1933)
December 9: 80° (old record: 78°, 2004, 2007, 2019)	December 15: 70° (tied record set in 1933)
December 14: 79° (old record: 75°, 1922, 1995)	December 16: 72° (old record: 68°, 1933)
December 15: 79° (old record: 77°, 2012, 2019)	December 17: 71° (old record: 69°, 1990, 2016)
December 16: 80° (old record: 76°, 2019)	December 24: 69° (old record: 68°, 1933, 1948)
December 17: 79° (old record: 77°, 2016)	December 25: 70° (old record: 69°, 2015)
December 18: 77° (old record: 74°, 1889)	December 26: 71° (old record: 70°, 2015)
December 24: 78° (old record: 77°, 2016)	December 27: 71° (old record: 69°, 2016)
December 25: 80° (old record: 76°, 2015, 2016)	December 28: 72° (old record: 68°, 2016)
December 26: 79° (old record: 78°, 2016)	December 29: 70° (old record: 67°, 1984)
December 28: 82° (old record: 76°, 2016)	December 30: 68° (old record: 67°, 1971, 1984)
December 29: 81° (old record: 75°, 1889)	December 31: 72° (old record: 66°, 1875)
December 30: 80° (old record: 75°, 1971, 2020)	
December 31: 80° (old record: 74°, 1921)	

Key:

	Tied daily record
	New daily record
	Tied monthly record
	New monthly record

Miscellaneous: 4 days had high temperatures that ranked 2nd highest and 4 days had high temperatures that ranked 3rd highest. High temperatures that ranked 1st, 2nd, or 3rd occurred on 24 days.

Houston:

December 2021 Summary
Mean Temperature: 67.8° (old record: 64.4°, 1933)
Average Minimum Temperature: 58.8° (old record: 56.1°, 1933)
Average Maximum Temperature: 76.9° (old record: 72.7°, 1933)
Number of 80° Days: 18 (old record: 10, 2012)

Record Temperatures	
Record High Maximum Temperatures	Record High Minimum Temperatures
December 9: 85° (old record: 84°, 2019)	December 10: 76° (old record: 67°, 1983)
December 10: 85° (old record: 83°, 1939)	December 15: 71° (tied record set in 1948)
December 16: 83° (old record: 82° 1908 and 1971)	December 16: 71° (old record: 69°, 1933)
December 17: 82° (old record: 81°, 2016)	December 27: 68° (old record: 67°, 2016)
December 28: 82° (tied record set in 2016)	December 28: 71° (old record: 70°, 1946 and 2016)
December 29: 84° (old record: 81°, 1984)	December 31: 69° (tied record set in 1951)
December 31: 84° (old record: 82°, 1974)	

Key:

	Tied daily record
	New daily record
	Tied monthly record
	New monthly record

November Records	
Mean Temperature	Number of 80° Days
1. 69.4°, 1965	1. 18, 1927, December 2021
2. 69.3°, 1927	3. 17, 1973
3. 67.8°, 1909, December 2021	4. 15, 1931, 2005, 2020
5. 67.6°, 1931	7. 14, 1978, 1988, 1999, 2016
6. 67.3, 1913, 1973	
8. 67.2°, 1945, 2017	
10. 67.0°, 1985	

Miscellaneous: The 8 consecutive 80° days during December 24-31, 2021 was the latest such streak on record. The previous latest stretch of 8 or more consecutive days occurred during November 11-18, 1964.